Hall, Alfred

Jan - Dec 1920

(073)

The Marlborough,
214 Jarvis St.,
Toronto, Jan. 28th, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Sir:-

I notice you have, rather inadvertently no doubt, precipitated a discussion and searching of hearts over the future status of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Possibly I might help you out.

Incidentally we might now, as well as at any other time, discuss the U.F.O. aspirations as regards a University policy.

Could we meet after the forthcoming next Saturday afternoon lecture and go dine somewhere?

I shall seek you out.

Sincerely yours,

Alf. Hall

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TORONTO, ONT. Feb. 12th, 1920.

Sir Robert T. Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Sir:-

Apparently you are longer under the weather with the prevailing ills than the average. I am sorry.

When convenient and you are able to direct some one, when next passing down town, would you have the Calendars and Law Curricula of what leading American Universities you have, left for me at 514 C.P.R. Bldg. Get the rest also if you can, please.

Now the U.F.O. policy is absolute transparency in all its dealings. What I have today written Mr. Hicks, the Government Whip and the Attorney-General may be fair for you to know also. So I enclose you carbon copies thereof. But whatever may be the occasion of a change in Ontario's legal education, you have yet to arm us with the statistics and data necessary to prove the desirability thereof, to the public.

Expressing the wish you may soon be well. I enclose my card.

Yours truly,

Enc.3.

[only 2 enclosures found]

Feb. 12th, 1920.

A. Hicks, Esq., M.P.P.
Centralia,
Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have had some conversations with, I believe, our mutual friend Mr. J. J. Morrison, about a sponsor for a private bill I am desirous of getting through the House and assented to as soon as possible this next session. I may say Mr. Morrison had even mentioned you to me for this purpose before ever you were chosen as Whip for the U.F.O. forces in the House and it had been arranged for us to meet when you were last here. But several things happened - just at the last moment too - which made this impossible. So I am now writing you instead and in this letter or under separate cover I forward -

(a) Copy of House Rules governing private bills.

(b) Copy of Ontario Gazette, containing on page 225 thereof copy of my advertisement which is now complete. The other copy appeared in the Sentinel here.

(c) Copies of my two petitions and proposed bill.

(d) Copy of my letter to President Falconer and his original in reply.

You are getting an inkling into the improprieties which for years through influence or patronage have utterly disgraced the Law Society of Upper Canada. I never thought that ever I would run foul of such a conspiracy or bunch of people but apparently I was too brilliant in my younger days for the safety of my rivals or more correctly some of them, in the profession. As I am actually a gold medalist in law myself and my degrees which I am told are more than a few, are all examinational and obtained on merits in our Universities here or post graduate across the line.

The evidence with confessions and otherwise will come out before the Private Bill's Committee but I in sheer indignation and disgust at the time sold out my home in Rosedale here for a pittance just to get away, such that my wife and her two boys had difficulty in following me fast enough; vowing like Tennysons

Locksley Hall - which along with his "Sixty Year's After" you better reread - , I never would see Ontario again. Happily I kept my inherited farm on which I was born; - one of the oldest and largest in Oxford county -. I could not get an offer for my Northern Ontario home situated among my three legal offices there at the time or I would have sold it too.

For a whole decade I kept that vow and would have to the end had not the War and its consequences come upon me. I had left this City the youngest field officer in degree of my times, serving with the 48th Highlanders. I threw away my sword but my friends I found had had me transferred to the Reserve of Officers such that when the War broke out I still was there, but I would not come to Ontario from our own West but went with the extreme Western dare devils of the 1st "American Legion", C.E.F. but eventually they got me back in training at Sarcee Camp and at Esquimalt putting the guns on the transports at that time building in the Pacific shipyards, as apparently no one else was found to do the job. I was all in, such that I thought it was up with me and I hungered before passing out as my advisers told me, to see the old homestead again and the grave of my old Mother, who had died during the war, mentioning my name with her last breath.

Nearly a year ago now I arrived. It seemed to brace me up at once. I took charge again there as a farmer and although there was never such a dry season before I believe we had last year the best crop of anyone there. Incidentally I advised just a little in the U.F.O. movement. About August I first met Mr. Morrison on returning here to Toronto one day; - the first in ten years. I was urged here and elsewhere to be the U.F.O. candidate in North Oxford. But I immediately declined, secretly because of this skeleton in my closet I am writing about in this letter, although no one else seemed to know about it. In any case the U.F.O. executive of North Oxford did not succeed in persuading the local labor man in Woodstock they had wrongly first taken up with, long before I had come home; to retire and so the latter reason saved my face. We all turned in under the circumstances and elected the liberal with the old time majority as you know, as we considered we had no better choice but it was the U.F.O. votes which made the liberal majority all the same.

However, to cut a long story short I have been here in this City since the day Mr. Drury was called on to form a

Government. On the side, interalia, I am beginning to publish a few of my books I had at different times begun and to collect some of my old debts.

I frankly tell you the passage of my Act will spell the death knell of the Law Society and the Benchers' privileges. But best of all it will be the occasion also of the passing of legal education in this Province into the control of the University, where it should have gone fifty years ago. The whole profession are backing up the change, being sick tired of the tyranny of the old parasite, reactionary, self-opinionated, and self-righteous Benchers. Particularly the younger element are interested.

So it will fall to the deserved U.F.O. Government to go out finding the missing sheep, restore it to the fold and give Law along with the other Arts, Medicine and Theology; - last but not least I hope- standing room on our old University ~~campus~~ and to restore to it its prestige here it has at Cornell, Harvard, Ann Arbor, and Chicago Universities.

Last but not the least I shall leave it to you what is to be done with the "two criminals" in this case. The evidence is complete against them. They are trapped as complete as ever any mouse or rat was trapped. But -----

You will notice Mr. Baldrow is my solicitor. Mr. Starr here as a Conservative lawyer will attend to the Conservative members. I have not spoken for any Liberal counsel yet as I do not think it is necessary.

I could write a long letter on this. But I wish only to outline now the situation and leave the details later when we meet. You see I must have a private member introduce this Bill; but I wanted so that the U.F.O. will get all the glory of the aftermath and of bringing the University people entirely over to your side.

I hope I have made myself clear. I am enclosing Mr. Morrison's letter and my card, showing my own personal office.

Will you help me.

Sincerely yours,

Encs.3

Feb. 12th, 1920.

Hon. W. E. Raney,
Attorney-General,
Parliament Bldgs.,
Toronto.

Sir:-

To you as Attorney General, having an eye on whatever private bills are offering themselves at the forthcoming session of the legislature, I offer the enclosed copy of letter to a Mr. Hicks, which will speak for itself. The petitions referred to therein and copy of Act desired have long been with Mr. Sydere.

Mr. Bayly, then just new to the Attorney General's Department, will remember the circumstances, and how I tried to lash up the then Attorney General, Mr. Foy into a sense, as I conceived it, of responsibility in the performance of his duties. But I spent my youthful indignation in vain, for the self-complacent Mr. Foy never read a thing of the compact, clear, incisive and absolutely complete and correct incriminating evidence I offered him of the misfeasance and malfeasance in office of certain Benchers, protecting certain other members of the profession from me, who apparently needed protection. But when finally Mr. Foy actually in my presence did fall asleep during a balmy summer afternoon from apparently the effects of soothing stimulants, in spite of my pounding arguments before him made at the time, it was too much for even me;- for it was so different from the experiences of my first visits to the Attorney General's Department I had grown accustomed to when as a little child I used to play on Sir Oliver Mowat's knee many and often every time my father used to come down to this City. That beneficent, kindly kind of a Santa Claus to whom I could go with all my troubles will always remain my conception of an ideal Attorney-General. And so I left Mr. Foy as a bad job for me.

But even if I did actually extract that year - rather from Mr. Whitney and not from Mr. Foy - the Oxford Graft Royal Commission, which actually did sit over the Toll Roads frauds there, so far so good; it only went half the distance I wanted. But I paid the penalty for my activities in unearthing what wrong doing I did, and threatening more, which had it gone far enough would have surely engulfed among others a certain Bencher who is still alive and attending on that Board. I could already give you a complete list of the "War Criminals" involved in downing me a young chap left all alone against them. But I shall leave you as the first Law Officer of the Crown to find them out for

yourself at first hand. Happily one in the meantime has crossed the great divide. I wish there had been more.

Yours truly,

Enc.2.

February 11th, 1920

Alfred Hall, Esq.,
534 C.P.R. Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Hall:

With regard to your suggestion that I should take part at present in moving for the establishment of a Faculty of Law in the University I think that it would be unwise for me to do so. My position hitherto has always been that of publicly stating the need. I cannot undertake to have anything to do individually with the propaganda for this purpose. In fact the matter has not been brought before the Board of Governors, and when it does come to a head any action would necessarily have to be officially undertaken by them. In these circumstances I do not think that it would be wise even for me to send you documents, because I do not wish, as I said before, to be accussed of having any part in a movement that has not been authorised by the Board itself.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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TORONTO, ONT. Feb. 17th, 1920.

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Sir:-

I appreciate to the full the limitations and necessities of your position. But also on the other hand let me relieve you of any misapprehension inadvertently my prior letter may have suggested as to engaging in propaganda with us.

We could not accept your services in this regard even if thrust on us. You are not yet, so far as I am aware, engaged, bona fide, in actual farming. The same reasoning applies still more forcefully as regards your Board of Governors. Some day when we have about achieved our purposes and are again thinking of going back home to mind our businesses, our Grand Lodge may relax its rules, but not till then. The responsibilities for our propaganda we share with no one, the good therefrom we share with all.

I never intended you could give us any data and statistics you would not as freely accord to others. The further information I wanted I cannot get in the libraries and it struck me the President's office is as much an integral part of the State University as the Library thereof might be. I further recalled I am an Alumnus of that same University with, I think, four degrees therefrom.

You would only have loaned me your documents at the best.

Yours truly,

Alpo Mac